



# Iowa Department of Human Services

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## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1245

**DATE:** June 5, 2013

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Hospitals Providing Swing Bed Care

**ISSUED BY:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**SUBJECT:** Prior Authorization Required for Swing Bed Admission and Continued Stay

**EFFECTIVE:** July 1, 2013

Effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2013, Iowa Medicaid is requiring prior authorization of all swing bed admissions and continued stays. This change is pursuant to a legislatively mandated cost-containment measure enacted in the 2013 session, which was contained in the department's appropriations bill for the upcoming state fiscal year. Swing bed placement is intended to be short term and only utilized in cases where an appropriate, local nursing facility is not available. Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) rules still apply for members being transferred to a nursing facility.

Discharge planners will be required to canvas all nursing facilities (NF) within a 30-mile radius of the hospital, which can meet the patient's care needs. If no appropriate bed can be located, discharge planners will need to complete Swing Bed Certification, Form 470-5156, and fax the form to the IME Medical Services Unit at (515) 725-0420. The form is available at: [www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/Forms.html](http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/Forms.html). This form requests information regarding the medical need for placement.

The current nursing facility criteria for skilled or nursing facility level of care will determine the appropriate placement. Facilities will receive a written Notice of Decision (NOD). If the swing bed service is approved, the NOD will include the number of days being authorized.

In addition to level of care (LOC), the following criteria also apply in authorizing swing bed care:

- The hospital must have fewer than 100 beds (excluding beds for newborns, and intensive care) and is an existing swing bed provider.
- The member is being admitted for nursing facility or skilled LOC (if the member has Medicare and skilled coverage has been exhausted).
- Swing bed admissions will only be approved when there is no appropriate NF bed available within a 30-mile radius. For the purpose of these criteria, an "appropriate" NF bed is a bed in a Medicaid participating NF that provides the LOC required for the member's medical condition.

- A Medicaid member who has been admitted to a swing bed must be discharged to an appropriate NF bed within a 30-mile radius of the swing bed hospital within 72 hours of an appropriate NF bed becoming available.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or locally at 515-256-4609, or by email at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).